

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

ZOOLOGY.

Tetragonops ramphastinus (Jardine).—A collection of birds received in the beginning of September last from Professor Jameson of Quito contains a very remarkable form of the *Capitonidæ* or *South American Barbets*. The collection was procured on the Eastern Cordillera between Quito and the Mountain Cayambe, and is accompanied by a map of the route through which it was made, which will be engraved, and a figure of the bird given in our Number for January.

Tetragonops ramphastinus is of a larger size than the greater number of the South American *Capitonidæ*, and is remarkable for the form of the bill, which is very powerful, and almost square at the base; the tip of the mandible is deeply bifurcated, and into the division rests the curved tip of the maxilla. The base of the maxilla is strongly developed, and the whole bill is richly coloured,—the base yellow and orange, the apical half bluish-black. The distribution of the colours of the plumage is also somewhat peculiar; around the eyes, crown, nape and a nuchal collar, black; wings and tail grayish-black, the latter somewhat cuneated; back, yellowish-brown; rump and upper tail covers yellow; from behind the eyes, and nearly joining upon the nape, there is a broad streak of shining white. The whole chin, throat, breast and sides of the neck are bluish-gray, and are separated from the belly by a band of dark vermilion. The centre of the belly is also vermilion, shading off at each side into yellow; the flanks, vent, and under tail coverts are grayish-green. Length, 8·5; wing, 4·1.

Habits of American Jaguar.—Walking along the beach to prevent sleep, I witnessed a singular spectacle, but (as I was informed by the inhabitants) one of frequent occurrence. An enormous jaguar was extended full length upon a rock level with the water, about forty paces from me. From time to time he struck the water with his tail, and at the same moment raised one of his fore paws and seized fish, often of an enormous size. The fish, deceived by the noise, and taking it for the fall of forest fruits (of which they are very fond) unsuspectingly approach, and soon fall into the claws of the traitor.—(L. Herndon, *Expl. of the Valley of the Amazon*, p. 312.)

GEOLOGY.

New Phyllopod Crustacean.—A drawing of this interesting fossil has been sent to us by the Rev. W. S. Symonds, F.G.S., with the following note. The drawing has been engraved on plate. “The addition of a new species of crustacean to the Upper Silurian list of organic remains is an important fact as regards strata which have been so thoroughly examined as the Upper Ludlow rocks of Great Britain. Plate No. VIII. represents the trifid tail of a phyllopod crustacean, allied apparently to *Hymenocaris vermicauda* of the Lower Silurians of North Wales. This phyllopod was detected by Mr Lightbody of Ludlow in the Upper Ludlow shales on the banks of the river Teme, and has been forwarded to Mr Salter for examination and description.”

Discovery of Gems and Fossils in the Haute Loire. By M. BERTRAND DE LOM.

For many years Espaly was the only locality in France which yielded corundum and zircon, and the quantity of these minerals which is now obtained there is extremely trifling. In 1844 and 1848 the author an-